

RELEASED IN FULL

WHA Press Guidance
April 16, 2002

**VENEZUELA: AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO MEETING WITH
CARMONA**

Q: What did Ambassador Shapiro say to Carmona?

**A: DURING HIS MEETING WITH INTERIM PRESIDENT
CARMONA, AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO URGED CARMONA TO
TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS IN ORDER TO RESTORE
CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND NORMALIZE DEMOCRATIC
RULE IN VENEZUELA.**

**OUR MESSAGE TO ALL VENEZUELAN CONTACTS HAS BEEN
CONSISTENT. THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN VENEZUELA IS
ONE FOR VENEZUELAN TO RESOLVE PEACEFULLY,
DEMOCRATICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY. WE
EXPLICITLY TOLD ALL OF OUR VENEZUELAN
INTERLOCUTORS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND AT MANY
LEVELS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THE
UNITED STATES SUPPORT ANY UNCONSTITUTIONAL,
UNDEMOCRATIC EFFORT, SUCH AS COUP, TO REMOVE
PRESIDENT CHAVEZ FROM POWER.**